WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARED QUESTIONS

Effect of India-Sri Lanka FTA on Farmers

1510. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports between Sri Lanka and India, after the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), has grown considerably;

(b) if so, the details of spices and copra trade between both the countries after the FTA, Year-wise and category-wise as on date;

(c) the details of steps taken to protect the farmers of spices and copra from price fall after FTA year-wise and category-wise; and

(d) the steps taken including conditions specified to protect the farmers from further price fall, if any, while implementing, FTA like South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indo-Russia Bilateral Trade and Investment

1511. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Russian businessmen enterprises are all set to develop a new partnership to increase bilateral trade and investment;

(b) whether according to figures the level of trade is still far below the potential and is limited to traditional items;

(c) whether exports from India to Russia have been exhibiting a downward trend;

(d) if so, what is the outcome fo the summit held between Indian and Russian trade;

(e) whether any agreement has been reached; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Developing a new partnership to increase bilateral trade and investment by Indian and Russian business enterprises is a matter of commercial judgement of the businesspersons of both Sides. Government of India on its part, w.e.f. April 2004, has included Russia as a Focus Country in the onging Focus CIS Programme aimed at developing and enhancing India's trade with countries of the CIS Region. Details of the programme are available on Department's website, www.commerce.nic.in under the head 'Trade Promotion Programmes'.

(b) Yes Sir. The major commodities of export to Russia during the financial year 2004-05 included traditional as well as other items *viz.* Drugs, Pharmaceuticlas, Fine chemicals, RMG (Ready Made Garments) Cotton including accessories, Tea, Coffee, Tobacco unmanufactured, processed Minerals, Plastic & Linoleum Products, machinery and Instruments, Transport Equipments, Electronic Good etc.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) to (f) During the 11the Session Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held at Moscow in August 2005 issues relating to exports of tea, coffee, tobacco etc. were discussed. Also, to boost India's exports to Russia, Government has taken a number of steps which include promotion of dialogue at the highest level, constant review through the Joint Commission/Working Group/Sub-group mechanism, promoting direct business contacts through exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs etc.

Export of iron ore

1512. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of iron ore exported out of total production during the last three years and thereafter and the amount of foreign exchange earned from it country-wise;

(b) whether domestic demand for iron ore has increased and Government are unable to meet the domestic demand;